(ii) Renovation, modernization and life extension of old and inefficient generating units with interest subsidy on loans by the Power Finance Corporation (PFC) and Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) under "Accelerated Generation and Supply Programme" (AG&SP).

(iii) Enhancement of Plant Load Factor (PLF) of thermal power stations with PLF below 60% through tie-up with well performing power utilities under "Partnership in Excellence" Programme, Government of India has provided grant for consultancy charges of these better performing organizations and Power Finance Corporation provided loan Assistance at subsidized rate of interest. The programme envisages improvement in PLF through toning up of operation and maintenance (O&M) practices, training of operating personnel, capital overhaul, essential renovation modernization (R&M), etc., as a precursor to major R&M/Life Extension works based on residual life assessment (RLA) studies, subject to techno-economic viability.

Proposal for oceanarium at Kochi

571. SHRI THENNALA G. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to start an oceanarium at Kochi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government of Kerala has submitted any proposal in this regard; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) The Ministry has proposed to set up an oceanarium in the Eleventh Five Year Plan, which is under consideration of the Planning Commission. Once the proposal is approved, the Ministry will workout the further course of action.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) The State Government of Kerala has approached for setting up of the Oceanarium at Kochi. The above information was communicated to State Government of Kerala.

Ocean and atmospheric science and technology cells in the Country

572. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of universities where Ocean and Atmospheric Science and Technology cells are available in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether this Ministry is supporting Ocean and Atmospheric Science and capacity building programmes in the above universities;

(c) what research projects the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services, Hyderabad have undertaken during the last five years, year-wise; and

(d) the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Earth Sciences has been implementing a programme on Marine Research and Capacity Building through a set of 9 Ocean Atmospheric Science and Technology Cells (OASTC), established in various universities/Institutes, which are located in 8 different States *viz.*, Berhampur University, Berhampur, Orissa; Bhavnagar University, Bhavnagar, Gujarat; Andhra University, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh; Cochin University of Science & Technology, Kochi, Kerala; Goa University, Goa; Annamalai University, Parangipettai, Tamil Nadu; Tamil University, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu; Mangalore University, Mangalore, Karnataka and IIT, Kharagpur, West Bengal. Two Centres of Excellence (CoE) were established at Annamalai University, Parangipettai (Marine Biology) and at Goa University, Goa (Marine microbiology) which have now become full-fledged centres. The projects are being monitored by a Steering Committee and functioning of OASTC/CoEs in governed by the respective Management boards.

(c) and (d) The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) has been implementing 3 basic research projects specifically in